CHAPTER XXIII

PRESENT-DAY AMERICAN-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES [1]

ONE very evident fact not generally understood is the important nature of the authority lodged in the President of the United States during the existence of the Commonwealth Government in the Philippines. The Philippine Commonwealth and Independence Law took the vast powers granted the Governor-General under former laws, and with the exception of a small remnant of power which stayed with the United States High Commissioner, handed over these powers to an autonomous Philippine administration. But the responsibility which the United States had to carry during the transition period had to be given to someone, and the most effective method was to confer it on the President of the United States. Before this he possessed general authority under war conditions and civil practice} now that authority is itemized.

Not for the purpose of wearying the reader, but to back up the above statement, consider for a moment the purport of the provisions of the Philippine Commonwealth and Independence Law which are enumerated:

1. The Constitution approved by the Constitutional Convention had to be submitted to the President for his determination of whether or not it conformed with the provisions,

mandatory or otherwise, of the enabling act.

2. When an election of officers had been held as provided

[1] Section read by the Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department.